

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of

Annual Assessment of the Status of
Competition in the Market for the
Delivery of Video Programming

MB Docket No. 12-203

**COMMENTS OF COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION SERVICES
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA**

Community Access Television Services (CATS) submits these comments in response to the Notice of Inquiry released July 20, 2012, seeking data on the state of competition in the delivery of video programming. We are writing in part to provide data but also to express concern regarding the preservation of PEG Access as a valuable community resource. We will address our role in providing PEG Access within our community as well as the challenges we face in remaining viable despite the limitations placed upon our services by cable service providers. CATS provides coverage of governmental meetings live via cablecast, in addition to playback over our governmental channels and also via our website (catstv.net). We also provide coverage and documentation of local events, performances, lectures and concerts as well as provide services allowing for our patrons to express their First Amendment rights through the use of our facilities. The programming that Community Access Television Services provides is of local interest and should be easily accessible to viewers and cable subscribers. It should not be placed in an inferior format or in a programming tier that is less accessible than other channels.

Bloomington and Monroe County has three cable service providers. They are Comcast Xfinity, Smithville Communications, and AT&T U-Verse. CATS' five channels are carried on both Comcast and Smithville but not on U-Verse. Both Comcast and Smithville carry CATS' channels within their standard channel configuration, not within a separate digital tier. AT&T does not carry CATS' channel allotment due to AT&T's insistence that we would operate on a tier separate from other channels with inferior quality and accessibility. If our channels are to occupy a tier with inferior picture and audio quality, a tier that requires our viewers to wade through numerous menu options and which forces the viewer to experience an extended wait time to access our

programming, then CATS' channels become marginalized within our community and in turn our viewers lose access to valuable information. U-Verse is arguably the most technologically advanced cable service provider, yet they continually limit PEG users easy access to information. This access to information allows for transparency within local government, it provides information relating to the education of our children and provides awareness to services that benefit our community.

CATS' responsibilities within the City of Bloomington, Monroe County and as a department of the Monroe County Public Library include the creation, production, post-production and scheduling of programming highlighting local government, including but not limited to live coverage of the Bloomington City Council, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Commission, Bloomington Public Works Commission, City of Bloomington Plan Commission, City of Bloomington Board of Zoning Appeals, City of Bloomington Utilities Commission, Monroe County Community School Corporation board meetings, Monroe County Council, Monroe County Board of Zoning Appeals, Monroe County Plan Commission and Monroe County Commissioners as well as the creation of community messages for local not for profit groups and community organizations. In addition to governmental coverage, CATS provides live cablecast coverage of local community events, lectures and concerts. Also, in addition to these services, CATS provides training, equipment and facilities for members of the public to produce and disseminate their own programming through our public channel.

PEG channels are an integral part of a flourishing community. If the Federal Communications Commission continues to allow the practices described within this assessment then there is no question that other cable service providers will adopt practices which reduce the accessibility to information provided by CATS and other PEG operators. Failure to address the practices described will continue the erosion of the value that PEG centers provide to their respective communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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